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NSC BRIEFING

28 January 1958

GUATEMALA
(short)

- I. Danger of violence has been reduced by disposition of Ydigoras and Cruz to seek agreement with Ydigoras as president.
 - A. Ydigoras in strong position.
 1. He won clear plurality with 40% of votes and his partisans would employ violence if needed.
 2. Flores attempting to drum up support ^{for} ~~by~~ Ydigoras.
 - B. But Ydigoras cannot go it alone.
 1. Congress, (pro-Cruz), names president.
 2. Ydigoras lacks effective political organization and his partisans will form only small minority in congress.
 - C. Agreement would be motivated because it only way to avoid bloodshed and, also, to reduce leftist strength.
 1. Ydigoras has probably offered Cruz partisans government jobs, also, a guarantee against reprisals.
 - D. If deal falls through, military coup, accompanied by violence, is likely.
 - E. Flores is probably interested in staying on himself.
- II. Ydigoras probably could not establish a repressive dictatorship even if so inclined.
 - A. He would, at least for a time, be checked by:
 1. Officer corps.
 2. Congress.
 3. Safeguards included in any agreement with Cruz.
 - B. Ydigoras has indicated strong opposition to Communism. **32**

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1. Election returns indicate no pre-election Ydigoras-leftist deal.

III. Leftist Revolutionary party (PR) emerged as important political force.

- A. It polled over a quarter of the votes.
- B. PR leaders avowedly anti-Communist, but party is already infiltrated in lower echelons.
- C. Despite the fact that they would be left out of an Ydigoras-Cruz deal, PR leaders have decided against violence.

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